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LC/MAIROBI

PROGRESS REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNDP FOURTH REGIONAL PROGRAMMING CYCLE FOR AFRICA (1987-1991)

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1. Introduction

The preparations for the UNDP Fourth Cycle Regional Programme for Africa (1987-1991) started in late 1984 with the 'Orientation Paper' which outlines the guiding principles and methods to be adopted for the UNDP Fourth Cycle Regional Programme for Africa. This orientation paper, which was the result of a collaborative effort between UNDP and ECA, proposed a basic strategy for a UNDP technical assistance focussed on the promotion of a genuine self-reliance and self sustaining development particularly through the development of human resources and the strengthening of institutional capabilities in the priority sectors at both national and regional levels.

After the definition of the strategy, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa invited all executing agencies to submit project proposals for consideration for funding under the resources of the Fourth Cycle Regional Indicative Planning Figure for Africa (1987-1991). In response to that invitation, ECA prepared and submitted to the UNDP-RBA the following integrated multisectoral and intercountry new project proposals.

2. ECA proposals for the Regional Programme

- Inter-country co operation for the achievement of food self-sufficiency and security in the staple foods
- Inter country co-operation for the achievement of self sufficiency and security in livestock and fishery products
- Co-ordinating the development of a transport and communications network in Africa
- Multidisciplinary assistance to drought-prone African countries to implement measures for drought and desertification control
- Development and utilization of natural resources, and
- Management of the African economies and human resources development

In addition to the aforementioned new project proposals, ECA submitted for continuing funding in the Fourth Cycle Programme, the following on-going projects financed under third cycle regional IPF.

1. RAF/82/063 - Institut pour le Developpement Economique et la Planification (IDEP)
2. RAF/82/038 - Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI)
3. RAF/82/039 - African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT)
4. RAF/82/051 - Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) and African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP)

5. RAF/82/037 - African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM)

6. RAF/82/005 - Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS)

7. RAF/82/017 - African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO)

8. RAF/82/011 - Women's MULPOC (Lusaka)

9. RAF/82/021 - Women's MULPOC (Niamey)

10. RAF/82/013 - Women's MULPOC (Yaounde)

11. RAF/82/014 - Women's MULPOC (Gisenyi)

12. RAF/82/053 - African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for Women (ARCC)

13. RAF/85/008 - Assistance a la Communaute Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC)

14. RAF/82/046 - Economic Community for Countries of the Great Lakes (CEPGL)

15. RAF/80/035 - Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS)

On the basis of the proposals from the Executing Agencies, including ECA, the Second Extraordinary Session of the Commission/Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of Ministers formulated the draft regional programme for Africa.

As requested earlier by the Ministers of Planning, an extraordinary session of the Conference was convened in Addis Ababa from 13 to 15 October 1986 to examine the draft regional programme 1987-1991. Through their discussions, the Ministers improved the substance of the 1987-1991 UNDP regional programme for Africa in line with the African new approach to development as identified and expressed in both Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAERD). In addition, the Conference of Ministers requested that the regional programme should give consideration to a certain number of specific development activities especially those related to economic co-operation and integration, the joint management of rivers and lakes basins, the development of human resources and the integration of women in the development process.

The Conference also adopted resolutions to request that effective linkages be established between the UNDP regional programme and the country programmes.

Follow-up Action

Since the adoption of the report of the 2nd Extraordinary Session of the ECA Conference of Ministers intensive preparatory activities have been carried out towards the finalization of the regional programme. As far as ECA is concerned, approval was given for the indepth review and reformulation of the on-going projects listed above in order to adapt them to the overall strategy of the Fourth Cycle and especially to ensure that their objectives and activities are in line with the development sectors for which priority consideration has been given. In order to avoid any interruption of on-going projects and for the purpose of bridging the gap between the third and fourth cycle regional programmes, the UNDP agreed to make six-month budgetary provisions for the financing of the activities scheduled from January to June 1987 under ECA approved on-going projects. Such a decision was to mean to give more time to ECA for the thorough preparation of the projects for inclusion in the Fourth Cycle Programme (1987-1991).

In the same way, the UNDP has decided that before the formulation of the project documents concerning IDEP, PADIS and UNTACDA, indepth evaluations of these projects should be undertaken in order to assess their real impacts and if necessary to reorient their activities during the period 1987-1991.

Regarding the new projects, namely, inter-country co-operation for the achievement of food self-sufficiency and security in the staple foods; inter-country co-operation for the achievement of self-sufficiency and security in livestock and fishery products; co-ordinating the development of a transport and communications network in Africa; multidisciplinary assistance to drought-prone African countries to implement measures for drought and deseritification control; development and utilization of natural resources; management of the African economies and human resources development; building materials, the UNDP is still considering them. However it is worth mentioning that it has already decided to allocate:

1. $US250,000 as preparatory assistance for the establishment of a United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders;

2. $US300,000 for the reactivation of the operational activities of the ECA MULPOCs; and

3. $US300 000 for short-term consultancy services to be provided by ECA secretariat to the member States of the Commission in the development sectors and problem areas of particular interest to them. To that effect it should be noted that the ECA has already undertaken to assist those IGOs operating in the field of economic integration to formulate in a streamlined and co-ordinated manner their project submissions to be included in the UNDP Fourth Regional Programme for Africa.

In addition, it has also decided to finance high level seminars with a view to taking stock of high-level experience available in the continent. The need for Africans to meet from time to time at high level to discuss important development issues and problems is more and more felt particularly by ECA, UNDP and ADB as a vital exercise with the hope that they would yield great benefits to the region.